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Lighted crosswalk will improve pedestrian safety

Division of Transportation's first 'In-Road Lighted Crosswalk' now operating on Butterfield Road in the Villages of Mundelein and Vernon Hills

As part of its \$2.4 million expansion of Butterfield Road in Mundelein and Vernon Hills, between US Route 45 and Orleans Drive, the Lake County Division of Transportation has taken an innovative approach to keeping pedestrians safe as they cross the now five-lane roadway. An in-road lighted crosswalk installed on Butterfield Road uses a system of lights installed into the surface of the pavement to warn drivers that they are approaching a crosswalk.

This type of crosswalk is typically used to mark crosswalks in mid-block locations or at intersections that are not controlled by a yield sign, stop sign or traffic signal. In the case of Lake County's crosswalk, the crossing is located at an existing location, which crosses the newly widened Butterfield Road, north of U.S. Route 45.

The new Butterfield Road crosswalk is the first of its kind in Lake County.

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The in-road lighted crosswalk uses flashing amber lights, which protrude approximately two-inches above the pavement surface, and it is automatically activated when a pedestrian passes thru an entry at either end of the crosswalk. Pedestrians simply walk to the curb by way of the sidewalk and the system is activated.

Signs in both English and Spanish have been installed to remind pedestrians to wait for adequate gaps in traffic before crossing Butterfield Road. Warning signs have also been installed to alert motorists of the new in-roadway lighted crosswalk. Motorists have the obligation under Illinois Law to “yield the right-of-way by slowing down or stopping if need be” to a pedestrian within the crosswalk. The flashing in-roadway amber lights will alert motorist to this obligation and courtesy.

Photo of in-road lighted crosswalk available upon request.